

CM 122-01 THEATRE APPRECIATION

Day and Time

Classroom

Instructor

Office Address

Contact Information

Office Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theatre Appreciation provides students with an overview of the artistic process of theatre including such elements as: the play, the stage, the actor, history and modern practices. The goal of this course is to expose students to the rich history and hard work the Theatre entails. There are no prerequisites for this course.

REQUIRED TEXT

Cohen, Robert Theatre, 6th edition. (McGraw-Hill, 2002).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide you with an overview of theatre in order to discover what makes theatre a unique art form and how this communication media makes an impact on society.
2. To analyze differences in the various theatrical genres (tragedy, comedy, musicals)
3. To observe and to critique theatrical productions in terms of acting, directing, production elements (sets, costumes, lights) and performance standards.
4. To analyze the process of oral communication through improvisation, storytelling and acting.
5. To understand the contributions of playwrights, directors, actors, designers and technicians to the theatrical production and creative drama.
6. To provide an overview of theatre history to understand its purpose in society.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to have read the assigned before coming to class, in order to contribute to class discussion. All test questions will be related to materials in the texts, video, class discussions and classroom activities. Regular attendance, and class participation and critical. After four absences, your grade will be affected.

GRADING

There will be **three examinations** during the course of the class. They will consist of short answer, definitions, true or false and essay questions. Test **one** will assess the students understanding of theatrical genres, playwriting/structure and Greek Theatre History. Test **two** will assess the students understanding of theatre facilities, set design, directing and the Elizabethan theatre. Test **three** will assess the students understanding of lighting design, costume design, Musical theatre and the Modern Theatre movement. Each exam will count 20% of your final grade. Exam dates are listed below and will include a review session the class period prior to the exam date. Make up tests are at the discretion of the instructor. One written **research paper** will constitute 10% of your grade. Topics will be turned in on the date listed below for instructor approval. This paper is intended to further the students awareness of Theatre and requires that the student form an opinion on the material they have researched. Each student is required to see **one live performance** during the course of the class and write a **paper** revealing their observations and opinions. This assignment will determine if the student performed well as an audience member. This will constitute 10% of their final grade. The final 20% of the overall grade will be fulfilled by **class attendance, participation** and each student will **write two scenes** during the course of the semester. (A minimum of two pages in length with no more than three characters}. The first topic will be a conversation you have had in your head, but never in real life. Scene two will be an argument between characters over a current world affair.

In summary, the final grade breaks down as follows:

Three exams (20%) each	60%
Live performance and report	10%
Research paper	10%
Attendance, participation and scene assignments	20%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Aug 31	First day – orientation and flow chart
Sept 2	Chapter 2 & 13 – genres and playwriting
Sept 7	First scene assignment due. Class reading
Sept 9	Continue reading scenes
Sept 14	Finish student scenes. Discussion
Sept 16	Chapter 3 – Origins of Theatre – Greeks
Sept 21	Finish Greeks – Test 1 review
Sept 23	TEST #1
Sept 28	PAPER TOPICS DUE - Chapter 5 – Shakespeare
Sept 30	Shakespeare video (part 1)
Oct 5	Shakespeare video (part 2)
Oct 7	NO CLASS
Oct 12	Chapter 1 – the theatre building
Oct 14	Chapter 14 - Set Design
Oct 19	Review for Test 2
Oct 21	Test #2 MID TERM
Oct 26	Chapter 15 - the director
Oct 28	Chapter 14 – lighting & costume design
Nov 2	Second scene assignment due. Class reading
Nov 4	Continue reading scenes
Nov 9	Finish student scenes. Discussion
Nov 11	PAPERS DUE - Chapter 8 – Realism
Nov 16	Modern Video (part 1)
Nov 18	Modern Video (part 2)
Nov 23	Chapter 10 – Musicals
Nov 25	NO CLASS
Nov 30	Musical Video (part 1)
Dec 2	Musical Video (part 2)
Dec 7	Performance paper due. Chapter 11 – Theatre Today
Dec 9	Last class – Review for final
Dec 14	FINAL 3:00 – 5:30